GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6639
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN BIO-TECHNOLOGY
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Switzerland has identified Research and Development in bio-technology and trade sector as key areas of cooperation with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this will strengthen knowledge-based sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this will attract foreign direct investment in this sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) to (g) India and Switzerland have identified key areas for increasing economic co-operation and trade including research and development in biotechnology. Both sides have signed an agreement in September 1999 for enhancing Indo-Swiss collaboration in biotechnology including inter-alia industrial and technical collaboration. Projects in the area of bioremediation, bio-pesticides, wheat/pulse biotechnology network, biosensors for detection of pesticides etc have been taken up as a follow up of the agreement. Soil remediation packages for pesticide degradation; bio-pesticide for insect control, commercially viable biosensors for detection of pesticides residue in food, water and soil etc are some of the other areas addressed through collaboration in this knowledge based sector.